Signal to Venus Man's First Inter-Planetary Contact

WESTFORD, Mass. (UPI) —Man has made his first contact with another planet. Scientists reported last night they bounced a radar signal off Venus for a space round-trip of 56,000,000 miles.

It was the first two-way contact with any celestial body beyond the moon. The impulse came back as a harsh, rasping sound.

President Eisenhower sent a special message congratulating scientists and engineers of the Lincoln Laboratory of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for the achievement, one of the major breakthroughs of the space age.

"Congratulations to all involved for this notable achievement in our peaceful ventures into outer space," the President said.

The universe as man knew it has been made smaller by the unprecedented contact.

Lincoln Lab's official announcement said "preliminary calculations indicate that the dimensions of the solar system are somewhat smaller than the previously accepted value."

The experiment has given man his first chance to study the surface of cloud-shrouded Venus, earth's nearest brother in space.

It also gives scientists their first chance to accurately measure space distances, according to Dr. Robert Price and Dr. Paul E. Green, Jr., leaders of the research team.

Man's radar range also has been extended 100 times.

Basic ingredients of the breakthrough were a giant radar antenna and its related computer located at Millstone Hill near here; a newly-developed research tool which hepled to "sift" the returning signal out of the noise of space; and the sweat, tears and inspiration of dozens of scientists, engineers, and aides.

The historic contact came more than a year ago but it took a crew of scientists working fulltime for nearly 13 months to find out exactly what they had.

Telephone — EV 3-4111

11.30 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Editorial EV 3-4509 or EV 3-8309
Circulation . . . . EV 3-0725
Sports . . . . . EV 3-7000

The Daily Colonist.

Vancouver Island's Leading Newspaper Since 1858

Forecast, cloudy, afternoon showers

(Details on page 2)

No. 83—101st YEAR — VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1959 — 10 CENTS DAILY 14 CENTS SUNDAY — 34 PAGES

REDS WANT TO TALK NOT FIGHT--MACMILLAN

Sommers Back in Jail, Loses Conviction Appeal

VANCOUVER—Robert Sommers and H. Wilson Gray were arrested and lodged in jail yesterday soon after the B.C. Court of Appeal announced its majority decision to dismiss their appeals against conviction. They will be held in Oakalla Prison pending outcome of an appeal against their five-year sentences. This is to begin in appeal court here Monday. Defence lawyers said no decision has been taken on whether to carry the fight against conviction to the Supreme Court. (See story on page 10.)

* * *

Mrs. Sommers

Debts Crush Wife

VANCOUVER (CP) — The wife of former British Columbia lands and forests minister Robert Sommers said here Thursday the minister's family will be in debt five, 10 or 15 years.

Mrs. Sommers made the comment after learning her husband's appeal against conviction on bribery and conspiracy charges was dismissed by a majority decision in the British Columbia Court of Appeal.

"It was quite a blow," she said.

SUPPORTS FAMILY

Mrs. Sommers has been working in a wool shop at Victoria during the last six months to keep her two school-aged children.

She said family finances would make it difficult for her husband to appeal the dismissal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

DON'T SEE HOW

"I don't see how we can do it. It takes all I earn just to keep the house and the children.

"We owe a lot . . . and we'll have nothing to spare for five, 10 or 15 years."

DON'T MISS

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City Gulls Dig Elvis As Music to Flee By
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Shore Scene at Long Beach

B.C. Acquires Park Area

Long Beach to Open

The provincial recreation department has acquired some 100 acres, including 1½ miles of water frontage along Long Beach on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, Recreation Minister Earle Westwood told the legislature last night.

The area has been set aside for parks purposes.

INTENSELY INTERESTED

"Our department is intensely interested in that district. One of our men is going up there next week," Mr. Westwood said.

He was answering questions by John Squire (CCF, Alberni) who made an impassioned plea for recreational development on the West Coast.

LAST SESSION

"I suppose this will be the last session I will be able to talk about the undeveloped area of the west coast," Mr. Squire said. "Once that road goes through, and I expect it will be in July, it will no longer be an undeveloped area."

If the government didn't act now, he said, "we will be faced with the same problems we have at Parksville and Qualicum where there isn't sufficient land for recreation development.

Session To End Today

Premier Bennett said this morning he expects the third session of the 25th Legislature will prorogue today.

He made the statement as the House staged a bitter early morning debate on Bill 123 which will forbid civil servants from picketing.

An opposition move to have the bill thrown out because of explanatory notes accompanying it was defeated 31 to 13 with CCF and Liberals voting against a Speaker's ruling allowing the bill to proceed with second reading.

Eleven Killed For Acting Up?

MOMBASA, Kenya (Reuters)—A Kenya police pathologist testified Thursday that the bodies of 11 Mau Mau detainees who died after clashes with prison guards showed "a general beating-up."

Twenty-three other Africans in the British colonial prison had swollen joints, bruises, cuts, lacerations and two had suspected fractures, Dr. M. G. Rogoff told a coroner's court.

The Kenya government said March 4 that 11 Mau Mau detainees had died after drinking water from a car at the Hola camp.

Government chemist Norman Kirby told the court that he found no poisonous substance in water samples.

Prison officials said that the detainees had "acted up" when they were sent out to work on an irrigation ditch.

* * *

Kept Running Woman Slain

BLANTYRE, Nyasaland (Reuters) — An African woman was shot to death by security forces Thursday in the Visanza district of central Nyasaland when she kept running after receiving two warnings to stop.

SPCA Will Soon Have Whole Area

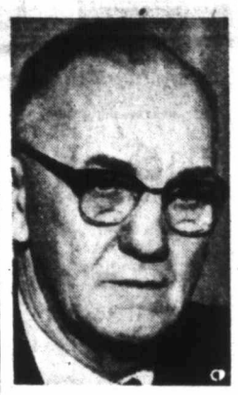
It looks like the SPCA is going to have the whole animal kingdom of Greater Victoria under its control.

Saanich, the last municipality in the area still running its own pound, will probably turn the job over to the SPCA soon.

"It's clear they (the SPCA) don't intend to lose any money on it, the way they're going at it out in Oak Bay," said committee chairman Coun. Stanley Murphy.

Coun. Charles Nelles said the recent dog roundup in Oak Bay was "quite popular."

Reeve George Chatterton pointed out that Saanich was losing $2,500 a year operating the pound.



W. E. GAMBLE

* * *

Strike 'Possible' Says CNR Union

MONTREAL (CP) — W. E. Gamble of the firemen's union said yesterday that a strike against the CNR is a "definite possibility."

He made the comment after the CNR accepted the findings of a federal conciliation board on the railway's year-old contract dispute with the firemen's union.

The board proposed higher wages for firemen and said firemen no longer need be hired for use on diesel yard and freight engines, although present firemen should be protected.

"I see no reason for being optimistic," said Mr. Gamble when asked in an interview whether the union would call a strike over the findings of a federal conciliation board.

He made it plain, however, that before any strike decision is made, the feelings of the union members will be sounded out in a series of meetings across Canada.

The union has 68 lodges representing CNR firemen on the local level, Mr. Gamble said. Each one will call a meeting "as soon as possible" to discuss the federal report.

"The members can do one of two things," he said. "They can either accept or reject the report."

The possibility of a strike, he said, will come if the members rejected the report and the CNR decided to implement it anyway.

The union declined to meet with CNR officials today to discuss implementing the terms of the conciliation report.

"We are not prepared to meet them at this time," said Mr. Gamble.

CNR vice-president W. T. Wilson proposed the meeting in a letter to Mr. Gamble.

Another Bill Passes

Third reading of the provincial government's bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act had a stormy three-hour passage in the legislature last night before being approved at midnight.

The 22-section bill was strongly opposed by opposition members who offered amendments to many of the sections proposed by Labor Minister Lyle Wicks, but the government's majority defeated all opposition amendments.

MR. JUSTICE RUTTAN

* * *

Court Upholds B.C. Injunction

VANCOUVER (CP)—An injunction to prevent picketing of government buildings in British Columbia by striking civil servants was upheld Thursday by Mr. Justice J. G. Ruttan.

The Supreme Court injunction was obtained a week ago after a four-hour strike brought government operations to a temporary standstill.

FIRST OF KIND

The four-hour strike by the 12,000 civil servants was the first of its kind in Canada.

In his written judgment Mr. Justice Ruttan said he accepted the submission from the counsel of the attorney-general.

"Picketing of government buildings would amount to a virtual blockade," he said.

"The over-all purpase was nothing less than the complete control of the movement of persons and supplies to and from government buildings."

CALLED FRIDAY

The strike of the B.C. Government Employees' Association members was called last Friday to back up demands for the right to "strike and place pickets like any other union organization in Canada."

* * *

Judgment Pleases Bonner

Attorney-General Robert Bonner last night said he was pleased with the supreme court judgment which has upheld the injunction against picketing by civil servants.

The injunction was granted last Friday just three hours after nearly 14,000 government workers went on strike.

Mr. Bonner said he hadn't yet seen the reasons for the court judgment, but "they appear to establish the basic law involving the necessity of no interruption of government services and free access of public and crown officials to their ordinary places of business.

He said no damages were sought and indicated that the injunction was all that was needed.

Common Interest In Peace

WASHINGTON (AP)—Prime Minister Macmillan expressed confidence Thursday that Russia's leaders want to negotiate rather than go to war over Berlin.

Arriving here from Ottawa for talks with President Eisenhower, he called on the Western Allies to develop "the right mixture" of firmness and reasonableness to guide them in proposed foreign ministers and summit conferences with Soviet leaders.

"I am persuaded that the Soviet leaders realize that they and we have a common interest in avoiding war," he said.

The British leader was seen off at Ottawa's Uplands Airport by Prime Minister Diefenbaker and some 50 officials.

In a brief communique, Macmillan said he and Diefenbaker agreed "on the basic principles by which the West should be guided, and also the procedure which we ought now to follow" in the Berlin situation.

Asked by reporters the extent of the accord, Macmillan said:

"It is not the scheme or the ideas which are important but the will to find agreement. If the will to agreement is there, the way will be found."

* * *

Nikita Plea Hailed

LONDON (AP) — Soviet Premier Khrushchev's call for a May 11 foreign ministers' conference was viewed in Western Europe Thursday night as boosting the case Prime Minister Macmillan now is presenting in Washington.

In conciliatory mood, Krushchev told a Moscow press conference:

"I am convinced there will be meetings of both the foreign ministers and heads of state."

Asked about Western rights in Berlin, he conceded:

"Yes, I do believe the United States, France and Britain do have lawful rights but we also believe that 14 years have passed . . . and that is why we say let us have a peace treaty and cease these occupation rights."

Professors Get Boost In Manitoba

WINNIPEG, Man. (UPI)—University of Manitoba professors will receive pay hikes ranging from $900 to $2,000 per year to make the university the highest paying in Western Canada as a result of increased provincial grants.

Thought Sloan Would Do It, Less Confidence in Carrothers

Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi said yesterday that agreement to publish the report on bargaining rights for civil servants was only made on the understanding that the late Hon. Gordon Sloan was to compile the report.

When Mr. Sloan was shifted to the position of forestry adviser, the inquiry was turned over to Dr. F. A. Carrothers, a UBC professor.

"The government did not have the same confidence in Dr. Carrothers," Mr. Gaglardi said.

It is understood the Carrothers report, which was the key point in the recent strike of civil servants, is now being studied by the Civil Service Commission.

Because it is not considered proper for any government to bow to pressure groups it is unlikely the government will file the report immediately, a spokesman observed.